MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Oct.-Dec., 2008, Vol. 18 No. 4
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,500	$1,460	$1,930	$2,150	$2,355	10	Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$915	$665	$855	$1,475	-	18	Int. - MBF	4
Sawlogs								
Basswood	$40	$40	$40	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$85	$65	$75	-	-	96	Int. - MBF	2
Hard Maple	$60	$60	$60	$345	-	2	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$130	$75	$90	$130	$120	36	Int. - MBF	7
Mixed Hardwoods	$140	$50	$105	$165	$95	252	Int. - MBF	5
Oak (mixed species)	$200	$70	$145	$115	$160	1,339	Int. - MBF	9
Post Oak	$130	$75	$130	$105	$200	307	Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$190	$85	$130	$105	$195	1,708	Int. - MBF	16
Shortleaf Pine	$130	$130	$130	-	$215	-	Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$290	$150	$200	-	$110	76	Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$800	$585	$675	$430	$775	30	Int. - MBF	4
White oak (group)	$165	$75	$120	$115	$200	107	Int. - MBF	8
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$500	$335	$435	$505	-	37	Int. - MBF	3

* Numbers are rounded to the nearest $5 increment.

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,500	$1,460	$1,990	$2,150	$2,610	7	Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$835	$665	$810	$835	-	4	Int. - MBF	2
Sawlogs								
Cottonwood	$85	$65	$75	-	-	96	Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$90	$50	$75	$65	$95	126	Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$85	$85	$85	-	$100	13	Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$290	$150	$200	-	$110	76	Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$625	$585	$605	$375	$845	17	Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$165	$165	$165	$190	$145	15	Int. - MBF	2
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$335	$335	$335	-	-	10	Int. - MBF	1

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
White oak (group)	$915	$835	$865	-	-	14 Int. - MBF	2
Sawlogs							
Basswood	$40	$40	$40	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hard Maple	$60	$60	$60	-	-	2 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$90	$85	$85	-	-	2 Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$165	$70	$150	-	-	719 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$100	$90	$95	$50	-	29 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$115	$110	$115	$80	-	57 Int. - MBF	2
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	$500	$460	$470	-	-	27 Int. - MBF	2

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$1,750	$1,750	$1,750	-	$2,085	2 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Mixed Hardwoods	$140	$125	$135	-	-	121 Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$190	$190	$190	-	$170	27 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$800	$760	$775	$460	$745	13 Int. - MBF	2

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Hickory	$130	$75	$90	$130	$120	34 Int. - MBF	5
Mixed Hardwoods	$100	$100	$100	$185	-	5 Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$200	$115	$130	$125	$160	593 Int. - MBF	6
Post Oak	$130	$75	$130	$110	$205	307 Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$190	$95	$130	$140	$200	1,666 Int. - MBF	13
Shortleaf Pine	$130	$130	$130	-	$215	- Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$130	$75	$110	$125	$215	36 Int. - MBF	4

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. ("# of Rpts." refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 28 timber sales containing 4,788 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A "sale" often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the "# of Rpts." (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

News from Missouri

I have been traveling around the state some this past quarter to visit with the forest products industry. I have been to several sawmills and log buying yards. I keep hearing from sawmills and log buying businesses that is getting tough to sell lumber and logs. I also know of several sawmills that have gone out of business and others that do not know how much longer they can stay in business.

Rough green flooring and grade lumber is getting hard to sell. Most of the mills told me that they are on lumber quotas. When a sawmill does sell a load of grade or flooring lumber the price of the lumber brings less.

Pallet lumber is still moving. I have been told by a couple of pallet producers that their business is off by about 25 percent.

Walnut lumber and logs has really been in demand this past year. After visiting with one buying yard, I learned that they currently were not selling any logs anywhere. This buying yard said the demand has basically dropped off to nothing. Some other walnut log purchasers said that they are still selling veneer but the logs have to be really good to sell them.

Stave logs area a bright spot in the forest products industry. I hear white oak logs that will make staves for barrels are still selling for a good price.

Railroad cross ties are in high demand. I understand that some tie purchasing companies have even raised their prices some.

The questions that I get asked most often are "when is the forest products market going to return? What caused the market to decline?" There is no good answer to when the market will return. I have heard predictions that range from the second quarter of 2009 to the summer of 2011. The biggest reason for the market downturn is the housing bubble broke in the US. There are more houses on the market than buyers.

If you have any questions concerning the forest products industry you can give me a call. John Tuttle (573)522-4115 ext 3304.

Ice Melters and Plants

Our mobile society can slip and slide to a crawl when a Missouri winter arrives. Chemicals used to melt ice and snow can mean safer traveling for cars and people, but can also mean real trouble for plants and soils.

Why are ice melters a problem? Almost all ice melting substances are technically salts, which work by causing water to remain liquid at temperatures under 32º F. Their effectiveness varies with the outside temperature. Some salts also have unfortunate side effects, which include potential harm to plants and soils, damage to concrete surfaces, corrosion of metals, and even pollution of water supplies. The problems caused by ice melters depend upon the specific chemical being used and how heavily it is applied. A choice of melting agent can be determined by its advantages compared to its disadvantages for any given situation.

Salts can damage plants in two ways: as an airborne mist affecting foliage, buds, and stems, or by entering the soil. Either type of contamination can cause slow growth, deformities, susceptibility to diseases, or death of plants.

Some common ice melters

Common salt (NaCl) is the most popular ice melting agent because of its availability and relatively low cost. It is also potentially the most damaging to plants and soils. Like all of the salts mentioned below, it can draw moisture from roots. The sodium and chloride components of common salt can each interfere with nutrient intake and growth. Sodium also accumulates in the soil and causes it to become tight and unworkable, impeding root development. Chloride can become a pollutant of the water supply if large quantities of common salt are used or stored without protection. Common salt is effective as an ice melter only above + 15º F.

Calcium Chloride (CaCl2) is also used extensively, although it is somewhat more expensive than common salt. It is effective as an ice melter at lower temperatures. It is much less toxic to plants than common salt, but can "burn" plants if applied heavily. Calcium chloride tends to attract moisture from the air even after ice is melted, and will therefore cause pavements to remain moist. It is effective at temperatures to -20º F.

Ammonium nitrate (NH4NO3) is a fertilizer that is occasionally used for melting ice. It is destructive to concrete and corrosive to steel. Although not the problem to plants as the above sails, ammonium nitrate or any nitrogen fertilizer can cause "burn" if it enters the root zone of the soil in sufficient concentration.

Urea (CO(NH2)2) has several uses, including fertilizer and ice melter. It does not cause damage to concrete, but i s relatively expensive. It can "burn" plants if applied too heavily. It is effective at temperatures above + 15º F. CF-4

Abrasives such as sand, cinders, wood ash and other gritty substances are used mainly for traction, sometimes in combination with chemicals. Abrasives can aid in melting, however, by absorbing heat from sunshine. They do not pose serious threats to the environment if applied independent of chemicals.

Treating for salt damage to plants: Damage to plants from contact with salt spray or mist can occur many feet from a street or highway. Evergreens may show immediate effects while deciduous plants may not show damage until the growing

season after exposure. Symptoms include yellowing or dwarfing of foliage, or dieback and "witches broom" of twigs. Damage is usually more noticeable on the side facing the drift.

If possible treat by pruning dead or deformed branches and by washing away any surface salt residues. Treat for soil contamination if exposure has been long and heavy.

Damage from salt contamination of the soil is caused when moisture is drawn from plant roots. Above-ground symptoms include wilting, yellowing, or "burning" of the foliage and stems. Salt contamination of the soil can have a cumulative effect, but the brine solution is more likely to soak in when the ground is not frozen. Sodium from common salt can build up year after year of application.

Salts can be leached out of the root zone by a thorough watering if salt contamination is suspected. However, some difficulties will be encountered with tight, high clay soils that do not have good internal drainage.

To alleviate the adverse effects of salt (NaCl) in the soil, gypsum (CaSO4) may be applied as a corrective or preventive measure. Rate of application will depend on the severity of salt contamination. For moderately contaminated soil, or where it is anticipated, apply 100 to 200 pounds of gypsum per thousand square feet over the affected area. This treatment can be made every three years. For heavily contaminated soil, apply up to 700 pounds of gypsum per thousand square feet, or 150 to 200 pounds per year for up to three years.

Powdered gypsum should be used to promote its solubility and movement into the soil. Gypsum is a naturally occurring substance that will not pollute the environment. It is frequently used as a soil conditioner or for clearing muddy water in ponds and is available at garden centers in 50 pound bags. Plants that have been weakened by heavy or chronic exposure to salt may not respond to gypsum treatment.

Seedlings for Sale

Seedlings are bareroot, one, two or three years old, depending on species available in single species bundles of 25 seedlings for use in Missouri.

Seedling sizes vary greatly depending on species. For areas where a variety of seedlings are needed, in smaller quantities, four special bundles are available.

The Conservation Bundle is recommended for people who want to add a mix of trees and shrubs to their property.

The Wildlife Cover Bundle will improve habitat and food sources for a number of Missouri wildlife species.

The Extra-Large Nut Tree Bundle is made up of pecan and walnut that are larger than our normal stock size.

The Quail Cover Bundle provides plants for quail food and cover.

The contents of these special bundles are preselected by the nursery, and no substitutes can be made. See the online order form or PDF order form for bundle contents.

Seedling bundles range from $4 to $28. Prices for each species and special bundles are listed in the order form.

Sales tax of 5.725 percent will be added to all bills unless you furnish, at the time of your order, a tax exemption certificate.

A handling charge of $5 is added to each order.

You can order online at: www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/nursery or contact the nursery directly at (573) 674-3229.

Missouri Rolls Out New Master Logger Program

The Missouri Master Logger Certification program is now ready for loggers to signup. If you know of an outstanding logger please encourage him to consider this program. This program is a voluntary third party audit program for loggers. It allows the logger to say he is one of the best and for someone to verify his claim. This program abides by seven areas of responsibilities which include best management practices for preventing erosion, wildlife habitat considerations, and forest management plans for landowners.

Most loggers that have completed the *Professional Timber Harvesters* course and have been practicing what they learned would qualify for the MLC. This could be a program for loggers to show they offer a service to landowners. In addition, landowners should realize by using a master logger they are getting the best logger industry has to offer.

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Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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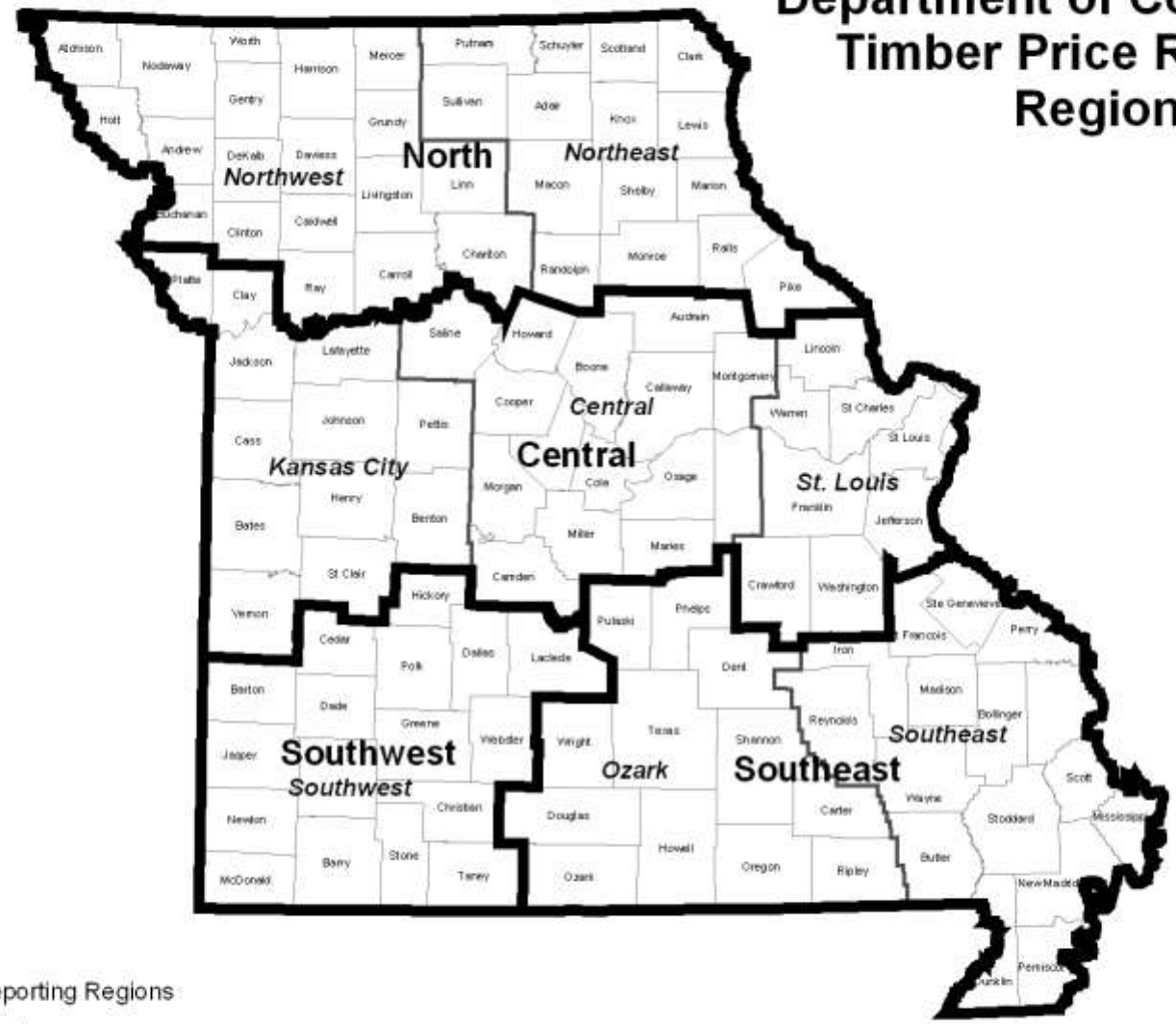
Missouri Department of Conservation Timber Price Reporting Regions



Legend

- Price Reporting Regions
- MDC Regions
- County Boundaries

Missouri Department of Conservation
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Return Service Requested